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1216th AEC
Meeting
~~9-26-56~~
S 7-13-56

7. Report on Tewa Shot at Operation REDWING

General Starbird reported that, in response to the Commission's request at Meeting 1215, he and Doctor York had been in touch with the Commander of the Joint Task Force regarding depth of water over which the Tewa shot would be detonated and also whether Tewa could be made the last shot of Operation REDWING. General Starbird said he had just received a cable from the Task Force which stated that setting up the shot for detonation over water sixty to sixty-five feet deep would result in only a one or two day delay of the shot, now scheduled for July 17. The cable reported a statement by Dr. Shelton that there is no conclusive evidence that less fall-out would occur if the shot were set off in shallow water, nor is there conclusive evidence that fall-out would increase at distances beyond one thousand miles from the point of detonation. It stated that since there would be a short delay in firing Huron it would not be desirable to fire Tewa as the last shot in the series and Admiral Hanlon therefore planned to proceed with the firing date of July 17 unless the Commission instructed otherwise. General Starbird added that the Division of Biology and Medicine has indicated that the danger area for Operation REDWING should be maintained for two weeks after the tests are completed.

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Mr. Libby requested that sufficient fall-out samples from the Tewa shot be collected so that the percentage of fall-out at various distances could be accurately determined.

General Starbird said he would hold a telecon conference with the Commander of the Joint Task Force later in the day to discuss the Tewa Shot, including the possibility of detonating it over water, 1000 to sixty foot deep.

For further discussion, the Commissioner shall delegate to the General Manager the authority to determine the location and time of the Tewa shoot.

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